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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,993	02/23/2004	Chao-Nan Chang		7127
7590	06/22/2004		EXAMINER	
CHAO-NAN CHANG			SAKRAM, VICTOR N	
P.O. Box 697				
Feng-Yuan City, Taichung Hsien, 420			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TAIWAN			3677	

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/782,993	CHANG, CHAO-NAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	VICTOR N SAKRAN	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1, is objected to because of the following informalities: since the word arcuate as recite in line 3, of said claim is misspelled. Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-5, are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-3, of U. S. Patent No. 6,718,602 since the claims, if

allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

because a perusal of the instant claims clearly indicates that the subject matter thereof is fully disclosed by the claims of said patent and/or that portion of the patent disclosure which provides support for such claims. See In Re Vogel, 422 F. 2d. 438; 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970). Therefore, it is axiomatic that the instant claims are nothing more than an obvious variation of the invention (s) disclosed and claimed in said patent and cannot properly issue in the absence of a Terminal Disclaimer . Furthermore, it is also clear that the invention could have included the instant claims in said patent and that if the instant application were to issue without Terminal Disclaimer, protection of the previously patented invention (s) would be improperly extended until the expiration of the instant claims since the utilization of such invention (s) would infringe the instant claims.

Furthermore, the subject matter claimed in the instant application is substantially fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows: a buckle to fasten shoelaces comprising an arcuate main body, having a hollow interior gap, a pair of side flanges, U-shaped check plate at each end of the main body, a pair of cross-shaped through holes formed in the center of said main body, a pair of outlets and a pair of inlets formed at the bottom of said main body, a pair of retaining plates, a pair of sliders slidably disposed into said main body and positioned between the pair of inlets and the pair of outlets, an elastic cap covering the top of said main body and having a pair of elastic end walls and a transverse groove formed in the outer surface, a pair of retaining means engaged with the inner surface of the flanges in the main body, and by pressing each of said elastic end wall of the cap towards each other and simultaneously pulling the buckle upwardly to unfasten the shoelaces.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

A TERMINAL DISCLAIMER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE U. S. PATENT OFFICE, BEFORE THE ALLOWANCE OF THIS APPLICATION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VICTOR N SAKRAN whose telephone number is 703-308-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. swann can be reached on 703-308-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3677

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 10,2004



VICTOR N SAKRAN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677